

The Porteous & Mitchell Company



Flower-Laden Hats the SPRING MANDATE of the MILLINERS

By Rene Mansfield

It took one rose to make the winter hat. It will take more than a dozen to make the smart spring and summer confection. A fashion that permitted a woman to close her eyes, drop a single blossom or bow or rosette on some corner of a rakish shape, stab the crown with a hat pin and sail forth correctly bonneted would be necessarily short-lived. "Off with their unadorned headgear!" roared the powers that be. Sotto voce: "It's hard for trade." So all signs seem to indicate that we will stagger under cartloads of blossoms before the end of summer. The advance styles show moderation in their use, as well as in the new shapes, however, and though one model had pink roses standing upright over the whole top of the crown, surrounded by a heavy hedge of white lilacs—all

of which suggested watering cans and pruning shears—the most conservative woman should be able to find something to her liking.

New color schemes rather than new shapes are the novelties of the season. The Russian turban that has been so popular during the winter will take a new lease of life, at least for the early spring, appearing in straw, meline, and sometimes in silk, such as pongee, to match the costume. These are trimmed with flowers, sometimes in bunches at the side, sometimes having garlands of tiny roses festooned about them, sometimes having the whole top of the crown made solid of flowers. One striking turban of black net had a crown of this sort on which pink roses were used, the color being softened by a loose veiling of net caught in here and there with a tawny shunter effect.

The meline turbans may have a cluster of flowers nestling in their perishable folds, or may be given a

jaunty dash by shirred and wired meline stimulating wings. A delectable color harmony was achieved by a bunch of ragged silk roses in a pastel pink, crushed among the folds of a pinkish lavender meline turban.

The cavalier style with its wide brim rolling gracefully on the left side, is perhaps the most popular shape for spring, because of its particular adaptability for flower trimming, and the larger sailor is much in evidence. Scarcely a hat of this character is seen without a facing of satin, velvet or taffeta. A novel feature is the covering of the top of the brim with satin or velvet, the under part remaining of the uncovered straw. When the brim is faced underneath often the crown is smoothly covered with the same material. Black meline and black net are much used in the dress hats in the cavalier styles, bound with velvet, satin or cloth of gold. A bunch of roses and violets formed the trimming of a moderate sailor shape which

had the appearance of being made entirely from gold braid about an inch wide, stitched flat together.

Leghorns, rolled easily at the side, or turned up sharply at the back vie for approval with the variations of the tricorne which are used for both dress and tailored hats. Hair and hemp shapes, chip and Milans are greatly in demand. For the street hats large bows of straw or ribbon or velvet, made into the stiff pump bow, give a perigineous to the sometimes clumsy looking turbans. The long popular mushroom brim, under which a woman might look like a demure mouse, or an inquisitive squirrel, is seen no more. It has been given a twist here and there till it has quite lost its drooping reticence. But its offspring, the poke bonnet is here, with huge bows at the back and say roses to the front that belie its modest character. One of these delightful creations was of pink satin covered with ecru lace. A pink aigrette at

the left and a huge bow of brown velvet at the back formed the trimming. Sometimes demi-plumes are used in the back in place of the bow. But a note of warning should be sounded long and loud. These fascinating chapeaux are anything but fascinating above and around a face that has lost the round curves and the fresh color of youth. Matrons and spinsters, beware!

The introduction of a touch of brilliant scarlet on many of the newest hats amounts almost to a craze. A band of ribbon velvet around the crown, a scarlet wing, a velvet facing—the smartest hats show these chic effects. The brilliant poinsettia, whose velvet richness was so striking against the fur turbans of winter, has blossomed into summer usage with petals of silk and linen. Great clusters of them are used at the side of wide-brimmed hats, falling over the upturned brim and resting on the hair. Cherries are the only fruit seen on the

hats as yet, but these are used in striking ways. One leghorn, of sailor shape, had a fold of scarlet velvet around the crown. A huge bunch of cherries was fastened to the left side of the crown, and through a slit in the brim a portion of it was allowed to hang or rather dangle over the ear.

A Spanish turban, faced with black velvet, was most effectively trimmed with three black pompons from the center of which sprang a scarlet aigrette. Another turban of Tuscan straw was simply decorated with a rosette of changeable taffeta. These changeable effects it is expected will be much used, especially in the melines. Turbans made entirely of flowers which are made of brussels lace or fine meline formed into petals have the regular flower centers and are used in the semblance of the cabbage rose, chrysanthemum or dahlia on many of the smaller hats. The leaves are sometimes traced with gold or silver veining to give the touch of metal so desirable.

The dress hats are developed in a wide variety of net and lace. Willow plumes and aigrettes are used almost exclusively in the trimming and the Gainsborough styles prevail. One stunning model is of Milan straw, with the upper brim covered with black velvet. It is caught up sharply on the side with a white heron aigrette and pink coral bead cascade. Another charming hat that made one think of garden parties and Dolly Varden, was a white silk hat in a drooping shape, covered entirely with black Chantilly lace. At one side of the crown the lace had been fashioned into a feathery bow, while at the other tiny pink roses are smuggled into the folds of the lace that encircled the crown.

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